

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 2807—Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act
**H.Res. 350—Congratulating the People of Sri Lanka on the 50th Anniversary
of Its Independence**

H.Con.Res. 218—Sense of Congress Regarding Afghanistan
**S.Con.Res. 37—Sense of Congress Regarding Little League Baseball
Incorporated**

H.Res. 374—Sense of the House Regarding the Ongoing Violence in Algeria

**H.Con.Res. 222—Congratulating Those Who Aided the Transition of
Nicaragua to a Democracy**

**H.Con.Res. 215—Congratulating the People of Guyana for Holding Multiparty
Elections**

**H.J.Res. 102—Expressing the Sense of Congress on the 50th Anniversary of the
Founding of the Modern State of Israel**



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following eight bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 2807—Rhinoceros and Tiger Product Labeling Act amends the 1994 Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act (*P.L. 103-91*) to prohibit the sale, import, or export of any product containing (or labeled as containing) any substance from a rhinoceros or tiger. The bill also establishes criminal and civil penalties (a fine of \$25,000 and up to a year in prison), as well as forfeiture provisions (seizing

and disposing of certain assets used in the commission of the offense) for anyone who violates the law. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Saxton; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote on March 11, 1998.

H.Res. 350—Congratulating the People of Sri Lanka on the 50th Anniversary of Its Independence congratulates the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their nation's independence and looks forward to broadening and deepening the U.S. cooperation and friendship with Sri Lanka in the years ahead. H.Res. 350 was introduced by Mr. Bereuter et al. on February 4, 1998, and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

H.Con.Res. 218—Sense of Congress Regarding Afghanistan acknowledges that the Afghan people successfully waged a war against Soviet expansionism and greatly assisted in bringing an end to the Cold War, and welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Lakhbar Brahimi as special envoy of the United Nations (UN) Secretary General to Afghanistan and his efforts toward attaining a peaceful negotiated settlement. The resolution deplores continuing human rights violations occurring within Afghanistan, such as continuing discrimination against women and the discovery of mass graves which contained an alleged 2,000 corpses of prisoners of war and civilians. Furthermore, it supports the intention of the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue their investigation into these reported killings. Finally, the resolution urges (1) the nations of the region to cooperate in the peace process and to end military support to all parties to the conflict, (2) appropriate parties in the UN and Afghanistan to work toward the eradication of the production of opium, and (3) the expulsion of all known terrorist leaders from Afghanistan and the closing down of any terrorist training camps operating in the country. H.Con.Res.218 was introduced by Mr. Bereuter et al. on February 12, 1998, and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

S.Con.Res. 37—Sense of Congress Regarding Little League Baseball Incorporated expresses the sense of Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated is international in character and has engendered international goodwill through its worldwide activities, particularly among the youth of the world. Furthermore, Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to provide, create, or locate facilities in other countries, and provide other support as necessary, including financial support, without right of reimbursement or repayment. Finally, the resolution calls upon the parliamentary bodies and government officials of other nations, particularly those that participate in Little League baseball, to recognize and celebrate the international character of Little League baseball. The resolution was referred to the House on October 30, 1997, the Senate passed the resolution by unanimous consent on October 29, 1997, and the International Relations Committee ordered the resolution reported by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

H.Res. 374—Sense of the House Regarding the Ongoing Violence in Algeria condemns the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and any other terrorist groups responsible for the atrocities being committed in Algeria, as well as the perpetrators of violence and other crimes against the fundamental human rights of Algerians. The resolution urges those who continue to engage in violence and the fundamental abuse of human rights to discontinue such activity. Furthermore, the resolution calls on the government of Algeria to (1) take all necessary and legal steps to stop and prevent violence, (2) cooperate with the international community to ensure transparency in investigating and combating terrorist activity, and (3) engage in a dialogue with all elements of Algerian society who have renounced violence in order to promote democracy and national reconciliation. Finally, the resolution

urges the U.S. to continue to work closely with the Algerian Government to bring about the development and implementation of political and economic reforms as well as the full restoration of law and order in Algeria. H.Res. 374 was introduced by Mr. Chabot et al. March 2, 1998, and was ordered reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on April 4, 1998.

H.Con.Res. 222—Congratulating Those Who Aided the Transition of Nicaragua to a Democracy commends Santiago Murray, the first director of the International Support and Verification Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS-CIAV), Sergio Caramagna, the current director of the Technical Cooperation Mission (OAS-TCM), and all members of the OAS-CIAV and OAS-TCM team for their defense of human rights, promotion of peaceful conflict resolution, and contribution to the development of freedom and democracy in Nicaragua. The resolution supports the continuation of the OAS-TCM role in Nicaragua. H.Con.Res. 222 was introduced by Mr. Gallegly et al. on February 12, 1998, and was reported by the International Relations Committee ordered by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

H.Con.Res. 215—Congratulating the People of Guyana for Holding Multiparty Elections congratulates the people of Guyana for holding multiparty presidential elections on December 15, 1997. The resolution supports the audit of the elections by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and calls on (1) all parties to respect the outcome of the audit as the final decision and vow to promote peace and stability in Guyana, and (2) the newly elected president and opposition leaders to respect the rule of law and human rights. H.Con.Res. 215 was introduced by Mr. Payne et al. on February 11, 1998, and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

H.J. Res. 102—Sense of Congress Regarding the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Modern State of Israel recognizes the historic significance of the fiftieth anniversary of the reestablishment of the State of Israel. It commends the Israeli people for their achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East, and reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel. Finally, the resolution extends congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and its people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future. H.J. Res. 102 was introduced by Mr. Lantos et al. on November 7, 1997, and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #10, April 24, 1998.



Brian Fortune: *Editor*

S. Kevin Washington:
Senior Legislative Analyst

Melissa Decker, Jimmy Papadimitriou,
Kevin Smith: *Legislative Analysts*



Legislative
Digest